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In cooperation with New Jersey Department of Education

TO: New Jersey Teachers of Agriculture/Agriscience and FFA Chapter Officers

FROM: Nancy J. Trivette, NJ FFA State Advisor, Robin C. McLean, State FFA Specialist and State FFA Executive Board

RE: Chapter Officer Leadership Training, **Friday, October 1, 2004**, starting at 12:00 p.m., until **Saturday, October 2, 2004**, ending by 7:00 p.m. at YMCA Conference Center at Camp Bernie, Port Murray, NJ (directions attached)

DATE: September 2, 2004

The State Officer Team looks forward to your chapter joining them at the 2004 Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) retreat entitled *"Blue Jackets. Bright Futures."* FFA chapter officers and their adult FFA advisors are requested to attend. Chapter officers will travel through time as they discover how to resolve team conflicts, be a high performing team and make a positive impact on the chapter. Their teamwork skills will be enhanced through participating in the confidence course, creating team goals and purpose statements, and exploring leadership styles. Your chapter officers' premier leadership will grow as they explore time management, first impressions and communicating the FFA brand. There will also be break out sessions to help develop your FFA chapter's program of activities. In addition to growing as a team, officers will have the opportunity to meet chapter officers from throughout the state and build a working relationship with the state officer team. Advisor workshops and meetings are scheduled throughout the weekend.

A pre-registration form is required before Friday, September 17, 2004. **Please email your completed form to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us. PLEASE forward a check (payment to: TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY with "FFA COLT" identified in the memo section) or purchase order IMMEDIATELY! No refunds can be made since we use your preregistration to guarantee numbers to the camp. The camp, in turn, uses these preregistered numbers to order food and plan meals. Your cooperation on preregistration is appreciated.** (NOTE: The only exception, according to New Jersey's FFA Conference Refund Policy, is a doctor's note or proof of death in the immediate family along with a cover letter explaining the circumstance. This must be sent to the state executive board within one month of the event.)

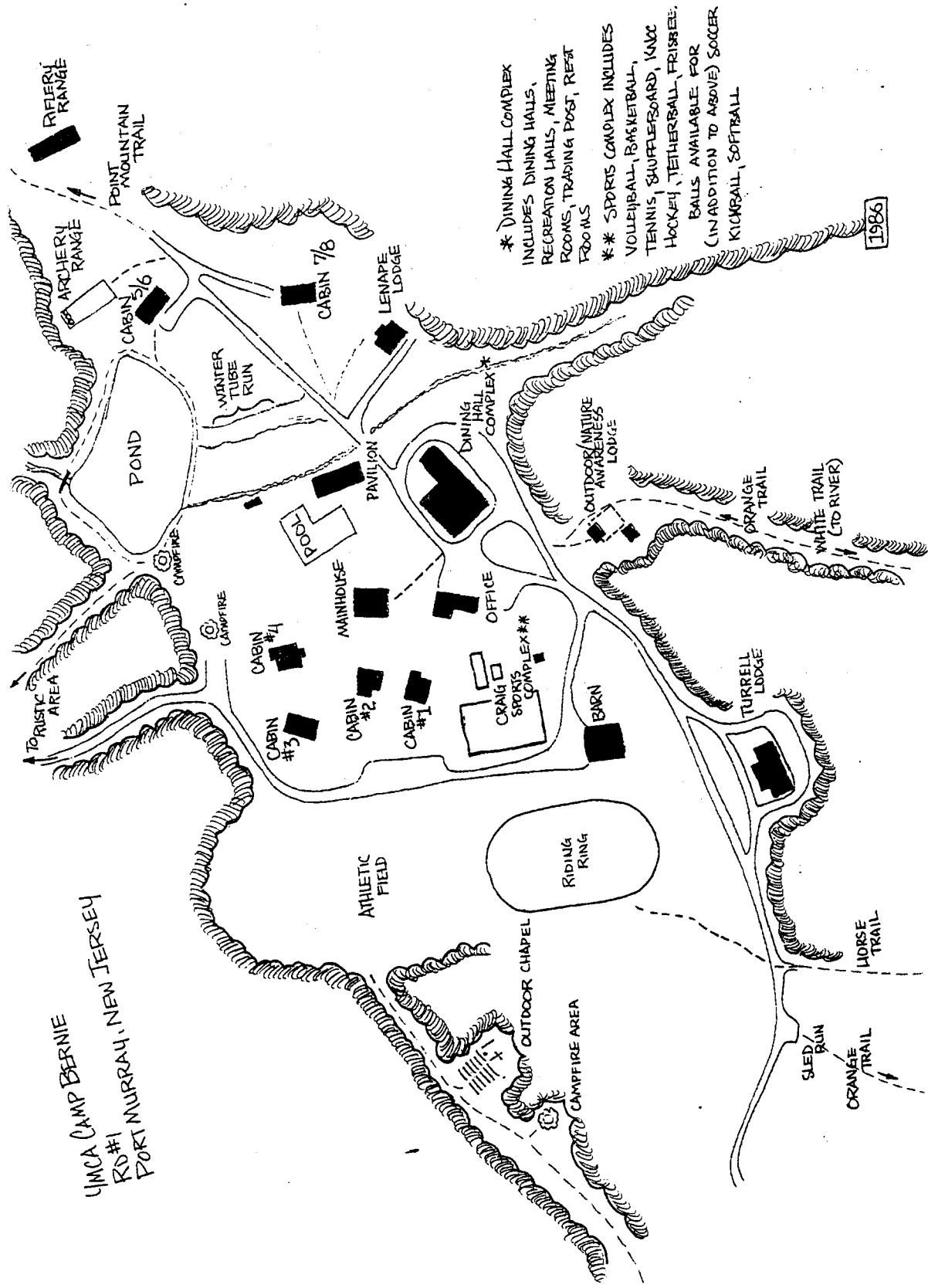
The cost of the retreat will be **\$108.00 per person**. Please pay by check or purchase order in advance. This cost includes one night's lodging, four meals, one snack and a 2005 state theme t-shirt. Lunch is on your own on Friday.

Important Facts:

1. Registration is 12:00- 2:00 p.m. at the Turrell Lodge.
2. Chapter officers will have the opportunity to participate in opening ceremonies.
3. Activities are designed for active participation. Every officer will become involved.

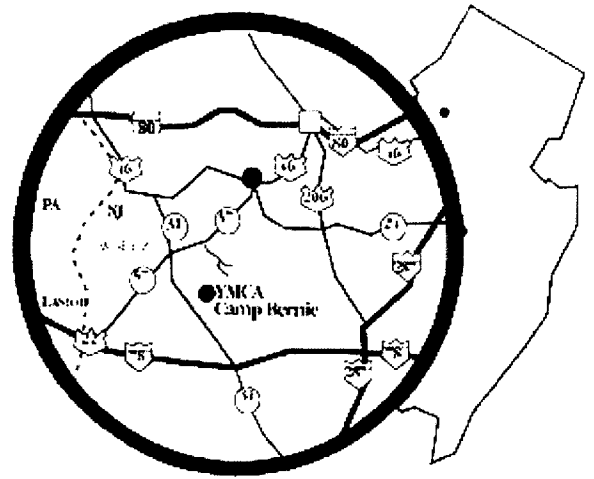
4. The conference is planned and conducted by the 2004-05 State Officer Team.
5. Chapter officers will be expected to work, but time is provided for recreation and fun activities.
6. Individual awards will be given to recognize leadership skills evident during the weekend. Chapter officers will be recognized at the banquet for their achievements. Awards to be presented are as follows:
 - Best Chapter Officer Team
 - Leadership Award
 - Best First Year Officer (1st year as a Chapter Officer)
 - Opening Ceremonies – Awarded individually for each office
 - Best Welcome
 - Best Pitch
7. Officers may sign up at registration or during the first session for pitches, welcomes, invocations and other activities. **(See Erica Runge, State Reporter)**
8. Lodging will be in heated cabins. Meals are prepared by the camp cook and are of excellent quality.
9. The training program will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and end by 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Official dress is required during the first session and at the banquet. When not in official dress, appropriate attire is required. Students will participate in an outdoor confidence course on Saturday - jeans and sneakers are appropriate for this activity.
10. This is a retreat. **Members and advisors** must come and stay the entire time.
11. Every officer and advisor must bring:
 - Towels & soap
 - Sleeping bag or sheets, blankets and a pillow
 - FFA Manual (recent)
 - Pencils & paper/notebook
 - Equipment & appropriate clothing for recreation
 - Official FFA Dress (see FFA manual)
 - Flashlight
 - Other personal items (which should include warm clothes and rain gear)
12. Friday night activities include a Halloween dance. The dance costume theme is “Your Favorite Decade.” Members are encouraged to bring a costume. Prizes will be awarded by the state officer team.
13. Cabins are to be left as they are found. All trash should be in the garbage cans. It is the responsibility of chapters assigned to each cabin to leave it free of trash.
14. Teachers are responsible for their students at all times. No student should be in cabins during the day.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing you at Camp Bernie.



Directions to YMCA Camp Bernie

327 Turkey Top Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865-3004
908 -832- 5315



From Bergen County and New York City:

- West on Interstate 80 to Exit 26, (Hackettstown/Budd Lake) which is Route 46.
 - Go about 7 miles, through 7 traffic lights and down the mountain (at the bottom of the mountain you should see a Blockbuster Video on the left).
 - At the next traffic light make a left onto East Avenue. Follow this road until it ends at a 'T' junction with a traffic light (McDonald's & Hong Kong Palace will be in front of you).
 - Make a left onto Mountain Avenue. Go to the 3rd traffic light and make a right onto Rte. 57.
 - Follow this road for about 6 miles. As soon as this road opens into 2 lanes, get in the left lane & look for a green & white "Penwell Road" sign on right side of road (it comes up quick).
 - Make a left onto this road and follow the signs that read "YMCA Camp Bernie"
- Note:
- Should you come to a traffic light on Rte. 57, then you have missed the turn. If this happens turn right onto Port Murray Rd.
 - Turn around in the school parking lot. Head back on Rte.57 and make the first right onto Penwell Road then follow the Camp Bernie signs.

From Union County & Shore Points:

- Use Interstate 78 West to Exit 17 for Washington & Rte. 31 north.
- Follow Rte. 31 all the way to Rte. 57 in Washington.
- Make a right onto Rte. 57 and follow directions below from Washington, NJ.

From Philadelphia:

- Use Interstate 95 north into New Jersey.
- After a couple of miles you will find an exit for Rte. 31.
- Follow Rte. 31 through Flemington (keep an eye on the signs) and all the way to Washington (about 1 hour from I-95).
- Traffic light in Washington is for Rte. 57.
- Follow directions below from Washington, NJ.

From Washington, NJ:

- Start at Rte. 57 from old movie theater on right (at light)
- Go about 3.5 miles to next light.
- Go straight for about 200 yards and look for the "YMCA Camp Bernie" sign on the right.
- Turn right at next road (Penwell Road).
- Follow Camp Bernie signs the rest of the way.